



Priority Habitat Information System (PHINS) for the Gulf of Mexico

A State/Federal Partnership to Support Implementation of the
Gulf of Mexico Alliance *Governors' Action Plan for Healthy and
Resilient Coasts*

What is PHINS?

The Priority Habitat Information System (PHINS) is a state/federal partnership intended to provide users with habitat information and foundation geospatial data supporting implementation of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance *Governors' Action Plan*.



Objectives

- Improve state, local, and federal resource management decision making through increased access and use of spatial data.
- Maximize use of existing data and information by integrating activities and reducing duplication.
- Link federal, state and local project info, reports, and spatial data into a Gulf wide information access and delivery system.
- Promote collaboration among local, state, and federal agencies' GIS groups, identify and spread awareness of "best practices", and identify and promote technology development partnership efforts.

Why is this system needed?

Managing resources across a region as large and diverse as the Gulf of Mexico requires a coordinated approach to data sharing, management, and access. This system will be designed to ultimately support data sharing, management and access for all five Alliance priority issues - water quality, habitat restoration, environmental education, identification of Gulf habitats, and reductions in nutrient loadings.

For more information...

Please visit: www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org

Or, contact:

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Pilot Project

The utility of PHINS will be demonstrated within the "identification of Gulf habitats" theme of the *Governors' Action Plan*. The partnership will produce a prototype web portal to provide access to current and historic local, state, and federal habitat data, with an initial focus on seagrass beds.

How does it work?

Using a web browser, users can search, view, and download spatial and non-spatial datasets at various levels of resolution for the entire Gulf of Mexico.

Digital Library

The PHINS digital library is a web-based data access and delivery system for data, reports, imagery, posters, presentations, and synthesis products related to the Gulf of Mexico Alliance.

Geospatial Data Viewer

The Spatial Data Viewer generates online maps from data stored at participating agencies. The Viewer includes tools for navigating data, viewing and querying data attributes, overlaying layers, and printing maps.



State/Federal Partnership

PHINS is initially a partnership between the five Gulf States and three federal agencies: USACE, USGS, and NOAA. Once the full prototype is developed, we anticipate other federal and local agencies joining the partnership.



Action Timeline

